

The notion of 'the Land', as a religious category, occupies a more or less significant place in all three monotheistic religions, namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Even within each of these religious traditions, this notion has been treated in a variety of ways, from merely spiritual and abstract (thus referring to the eschatological, spiritual or primordial realm) to concrete and historically relevant (understood liturgically or politically significant). The conference aims at bringing those different perspectives on 'the land' together so that a comparative theological setting for deepening the subject would be possible.

The main question is: how do Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious scholars understand the notion of 'the Land' - each from the perspective of his or her own religious tradition? And how does this relate to the other religions?

Upon its belief in the substantial value of studying this subject, the International Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues (CTSI), at the University of Bonn, Germany, convenes a conference on "Theologies of the Land - Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Perspectives" to be held on 10-12 February 2025. The organizers aspire at inviting theologians and scholars from Jewish, Christian and Muslim backgrounds to converse among each other on the understanding of 'the Land' in their religious traditions. The conference aims at bringing the interlocutors into an ideology-free venue of reasoning in order to provide the setting for further comparative theological reflections on the subject. The speakers are invited from Jewish, Christian and Muslim backgrounds, and each would be asked to present his or her paper and discourse on this subject from the perspective of the religious tradition he or she is affiliated to (so that each religious tradition would be given the chance to articulate its own stance on the subject in its very own terms). In addition to that, interdisciplinary contributions, such as historic perspectives, will be presented. While each speaker is gladly welcomed and encouraged to present a paper that touches upon one of the enlisted inquiries that are proposed above, the speakers are also granted the freedom to suggest (in their paper proposals) other inquiries and to tackle different questions related to the theme of 'the Land'. These proposed inquiries need to be conjured either from a historiological perspective or theological and interreligious ones, and it can be either related to the past history or focusing on the present time.

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THEOLOGIES OF THE LAND

JEWISH,
CHRISTIAN,
AND ISLAMIC
PERSPECTIVES



Sunday, February 9

Early Arrival possible

Monday, February 10

12-1:30 Lunch Buffet

1:45 **Welcome** and conference opening
in Seminar Room 8

First Panel: Historical Perspectives

(Chair: Nasrin Bani Assadi)

2-3: **Brannon Wheeler**, Annapolis: Constructing territory with the bodies of Muhammad

3-4: **Katharina Heyden**, Bern: Where Times Converge, Where Heaven and Earth Blend: "Seeing synoptically" the Holy Land in Christianity

4.30-5.30: **Constanza Cordoni**, Wien: Jewish Land theologies in the early Middle Ages

5.30-6.30: Open Panel Discussion
(introduced by Klaus von Stosch)

Conference Dinner

Tuesday, February 11

Second Panel: Legal and Scriptural Perspectives

(Chair: Lukas Wiesenhütter)

9-10: **Vahid Mahdavi Mehr**, Qom: Is there a Quranic theology of the land?

10-11: **Moshe Lavee**, Haifa: Focal space, belonging, longing, metaphor: Reflections on the Land in Jewish sources

11.30-12.30: **Ryszard Bobrowicz**, Leuven: Ownership, possession, servitude: Can legal thinking help us in considering the possibility of 'multifaith land'?

Lunch Break

Third Panel: Theological Perspectives

(Chair: Annette Boeckler)

2-3: **Ruth Langer**, Boston: 'And I Will Remember the Land' (Lev 26:4): The Land in Jewish Liturgical Memory

3-4: **Christian Rutishauser**, Luzern: Theology of the Land of Israel: Addressing a gap in *Nostra Aetate*

4.30-5.30: **Sareh Amir Yazdani**, Qom: Holy land from the viewpoint of the Islamic worship and pilgrimage theology

5.30-6.30: Open Panel Discussion
(introduced by Domenik Ackermann)

Dinner

Keynote Lecture

8-9: **Karma Ben Johanan**, Jerusalem: The Land Who Must Not be Named: A Religion Scholar's View on the Shared and the Conflicted

Wednesday, February 12

Fourth Panel: Perspectives from Liturgy and Worship

(Chair: Najib George Awad)

9-10: **Annette Boeckler**, Bonn: From Burgkurstadt to Jerusalem: The journey to the Land in progressive-Jewish liturgies

10-11: **Andreas Odenthal**, Bonn: Ritual measurements of time and space. Images of the Promised Land considering the example of the Fourth Sunday of Quadragesima.

11.30-12.30: **Mohsen Goudarzi**, Harvard: The Believers' "Amphictyony" and the Jews: Re-examining Festivals and Federations in Medina